Non receipt of amount sanctioned to up for Saving Forests from Fire

†2434. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission had sanctioned Rs. ten crores for taking measures to save the forests from fire in the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not receiving the amount by the Forests Department of Uttar Pradesh till date and by when this amount is likely to be received by the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Planning Commission had sanctioned an Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 10 cr. to the State of Uttar Pradesh for Annual Plan 1999-2000 for prevention and control of forest fires. As per information received from Ministry of Finance, they have issued the release order in the month of June, 99 and it is for the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to draw the amount.

Proper utilization of Central Assistance

2435. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Central assistance provided to State for various purposes, are not utilized properly;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to this state of affairs through audit reports etc. and

(c) if so, what mechanism Government propose to evolve to see that these Central assistance are utilized properly?

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†Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Central Assistance towards State Plans is given by Planning Commission in block form. A general review of the performance of plan implementation of the States is done at the time of Annual Plan discussions. Various Ministries/Departments of Government of India also provide assistance to the States under different Centrally Sponsored Schemes and monitor the implementation of these schemes as well as the plan schemes of the States pertaining to their sector. The audit reports of Comptroller and Auditor General of India relating to the accounts of State are to be submitted to the Governor of the State who causes them to be laid before the Legislature of the State under Article 151 of the Constitution. The concerned departments of the State Governments are required to submit action taken notes on all audit paragraphs and reviews to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) duly vetted by the Audit. A report of the PAC containing their observations and recommendations is presented to the State Legislature. Various suggestions have been made for improving the delivery and implementation of the projects/schemes in the Ninth Five Year Plan document. Planning Commission has also been emphasizing the proper utilization of funds by suitable delegation and decentralization to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Urban Local Bothes and also through checking of the implementation of projects/schemes at the ground level.

Determination of Poverty Line

2436. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the definition of poverty line as adopted by the Planning Commission;